

Fred Amyx Barn (Amyx-Cox Barn, Pole Barn)
West side of N. Broadway
Montour
Gem County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-40

HABS
ID,
23-MONT,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
ID,
23-MONT,
2-FRED AMYX BARN
("Amyx-Cox Barn"
or "Pole Barn")

Location: South side of east/west street to the
west of North Broadway
Montour, Gem County, Idaho
UTM: 11/553725/4863500

Present Owner: United States Department of the Interior

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: Unused

Statement of
Significance: This barn is a typical example of an open-
sided structure used to store baled hay.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of erection: 1925

Builder and Architect: Unknown

Historical narrative:

This is a wholly typical structure, of a type found throughout the semiarid hay regions of the West. It was used simply to store baled hay. The generally dry climate obviated the need for an enclosed space - thus the open sides. The hay hood is a traditional, triangular form.

There is no written documentary information on this structure, and its use of salvaged timbers makes dating by construction method difficult. It may have been built by Fred Amyx, who acquired the lot on which it is located, in 1924. The report on Montour prepared by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office dates the barn c. 1925.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATIONGeneral Statement

1. Architectural merit and interest: This is an example of a small, open-sided barn of which many examples are found in this region of Idaho. These barns are used for the storage of baled hay. The barn utilized timbers salvaged from an earlier building.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor.
3. Summary description: One story, one bay wide and 5 bays long, 59' by 18'-8", rectangular plan.

Detailed description of exterior

1. Foundations: At the northwest corner a granite boulder footing was visible under the sill at the post. Another footing was seen at the sill under the adjoining post on the west wall. It seems reasonable to assume that there are such stone footings under the sills at all of the wall posts and probably a line (or two lines) of intermediate footings under the floor beams. Settlement and the wet condition of the soil prevented discovery of other footings.
2. Wall construction: Except for the south wall, the sides of the barn are closed in with vertical planks at the lower four and a half feet and open above that level. At the south (end) wall, there are vertical planks the full height of the wall. The planks are one inch thick and are fastened with wire nails. At the south wall the plank widths range from 12 to 20 inches and many of them are extremely cupped (concave outward). At the other walls the planks are generally 12 inches wide.
3. Structural system: The system is a heavy-timber braced frame. The outer walls have an 8-inch-wide sill, which rests on the footings. The posts are 8 inches square, as are the girts and the plate at the top of the posts. There are angle braces connecting posts to the plate. Crossing the building are transverse beams, also 8 inches square, dropped to the level where the angle braces connecting plate and posts are connected to the posts. These transverse beams have angle braces to the posts. The visible perpendicular joints in the timber generally connect by means of mortice-and-tenon joints held with wooden pegs. Where the transverse beams connect to the poles, the poles are notched about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The angle braces are tenoned into mortices in posts and beams, but are not pegged but nailed instead. The timber has a rough sawn finish. The roof is framed with rafters of 2-inch-thick wood meeting without a ridgepole.

The heavy timber appears to be material reused from another

structure. Nearly all members have mortices and peg holes which are irrelevant and unused. The 8-inch-square girts are far too large in cross section for their use, even for supporting their own weight at the joints in the posts, where several have twisted loose. In some of these timbers there are machine-cut nails embedded, suggesting late nineteenth-century work originally.

Recent diagonal braces, from floor to two of the west posts, have been installed. These braces are poles.

4. Porches, etc.: None.
5. Chimneys: None.
6. Openings, doorways: The low outer wall is in poor condition, so that the possible locations of openings is uncertain. At the south end of the east wall there is a small, rough hinged door.
7. Openings, windows: None
8. Roof, shape, covering: The roof is of gable shape running the length of the building and covered with corrugated galvanized steel.
9. Roof, eaves: The rafters project slightly at the eaves, carrying stripping and the galvanized steel. At the north end - the end facing the street - the peak of the roof projects in a triangular outline in plan, covering an overhead rail.

Detailed description of the interior

1. Floor plan: The plan is one rectangle.
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: The space is floored in 4-inch-thick timbers of widths varying from 6 to 12 inches. These run the length of the building. At the ends of the building the planks rest on the wall sills. It is not possible to determine what was the system of intermediate supports for the flooring because the flooring is in deteriorated and partly rotted condition. Considering the weight of hay to be carried, substantial supports would be needed. The water level in the ground under the barn is quite near the surface and must be the cause of the rotted floor construction.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: None.
5. Doorways and doors: None.

6. Interior trim: None.
7. Hardware: None.
8. Mechanical and electrical equipment: An overhead rail made up of paired metal angles runs the length of the building at the ridge.

Site and surroundings

1. Orientation and general setting: The north end of the building faces the road and is within 30 feet of it.
2. Historic landscape design: None.
3. Outbuildings: None.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by Dennett, Muessig & Associates, Iowa City, Iowa, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region. It fulfills the Bureau of Reclamation's obligations under a memorandum of agreement between the Bureau, the State of Idaho, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR 800. The structure was photographed, measured, and drawn March - September, 1979 by Sarah J. Dennett and Hans Muessig, Project Supervisors; Wesley I. Shank, Project Architectural Historian/Historical Architect, (Iowa State University); Martha H. Bowers, Project Historian; Robert A. Ryan, Project Photographer; and Philipp Muessig, Project Assistant.

APPENDIX

CHAIN OF TITLE: FRED AMYX BARN

Description: Lots 19, 20 & 21, Dewey Lots, T7N R1E, Boise Meridian

Reference: Recorder's Office, Gem County Courthouse, Emmett, Idaho

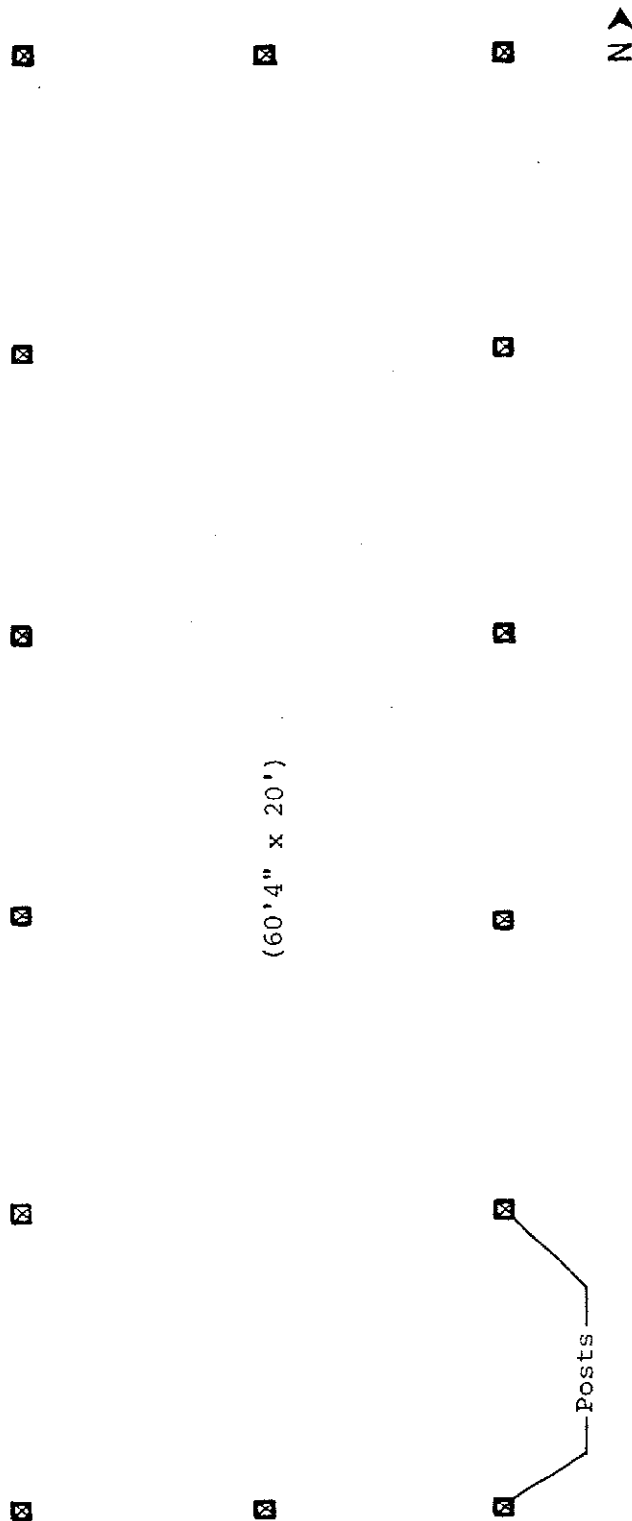
1923 Deed 14 November 1923
Recorded 20 December 1923
Book 15 Deeds, p. 596
E. H. & W. C. Dewey Investment Co.
to
James McRoberts

1924 Deed 21 July 1924
Recorded 26 July 1924
Book 16 Deeds, p. 138
James McRoberts
to
Fred B. Amyx

1924 Deed 21 July 1924
Recorded 26 July 1924
Book 16 Deeds, p. 140
Dewey Investment Co.
to
Fred B. Amyx

1941 Deed 8 December 1941
Recorded 10 December 1941
Book 26 Deeds, p. 362
Fred B. Amyx & Jane Amyx
to
William L. Cox & Alberta J. Cox

1977 Deed 14 January 1977
Recorded 18 January 1977
Deed Instrument # 118830
William L. Cox & Alberta J. Cox
to
U. S. A.



FRED AMYX BARN
approx. 1/8 scale